

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION REPORT

DATE: March 1, 2000

SUBJECT: West Mahopac Wells, West Mahopac, Putnam County, New York
Pollution Report No: Two (2)

FROM: Dwayne Harrington, On-Scene Coordinator
Response and Prevention Branch

TO:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Bruce Sprague, EPA | B. Dease, 2ERRD-RPB |
| John Higgins, EPA | B. Bellow, 2CD |
| T. Johnson, 5202G | R. Cahill, 2CD-PAT |
| J. Witkowski, EPA | START |
| P. Simon, ORC, EPA | R. Byrnes, OIG |
| John Rashak, NYSDEC | T. Vickerson, NYSDEC |
| K. Guarino, 2CID | |

I. BACKGROUND:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| SITE NO: | LC |
| DELIVERY ORDER NO: | 0006 |
| D. ORDER COMPLETE DATE: | 09/15/00 |
| RESPONSE AUTHORITY: | CERCLA |
| CERCLIS NO: | NYSFN0204226 |
| NPL STATUS: | No |
| STATE NOTIFICATION: | 10/04/99 |
| ACTION MEMO APPROVAL: | 12/17/99 |
| START DATE: | 09/29/99 |
| MOBILIZATION DATE: | 10/18/99 |
| DEMOBILIZATION DATE: | --- |
| COMPLETION DATE: | --- |

II. SITE INFORMATION:

A. Incident Category:

B. Site Description:

1. Site description

The West Mahopac Wells site is a residential neighborhood on Wood Street and Bryant Pond/Secor Roads in West Mahopac, Putnam, County, New York. In August, 1999, several residential drinking water wells in the neighborhood were identified by the Putnam County Health Department as being contaminated with organic chemicals, including trichloroethylene (TCE), dichloroethylene (DCE), perchloroethylene (PCE),

and methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE). In 1998, NYSDEC installed water treatment systems for four neighborhood wells due to contamination from a gasoline spill on a nearby highway. In August 1999, NYSDEC requested that EPA perform an assessment for a CERCLA emergency removal action for the installation of water treatment systems in additional residences that require treatment.

2. Description of threat:

TCE and PCE are carcinogenic via ingestion and inhalation. TCE, PCE, DCE, and MTBE are chronically toxic via ingestion, inhalation, and dermal contact.

C. Preliminary Assessment Results:

Analysis by EPA in August, 1999 confirmed that the contamination in seven wells in the neighborhood were above or near the Minimum Contaminant Level (MCL) for TCE and PCE. The Removal Action Level (RAL) for TCE was exceeded in one of the seven residences. The affected residences are near Lake Secor Road, Route 30, and east of Wood Street in West Mahopac. To date, the source of the contamination has not been identified.

D. Planned Removal Actions

Water treatment systems consisting of a sediment pre-filter, two granular activated carbon (GAC) filters, an ultra-violet disinfection unit, and a reverse osmosis filter were installed in six of the residences to eliminate or reduce levels of contamination in the wells below the established MCLs.

III. RESPONSE INFORMATION:

A. Current situation:

On September 28, 1999, the Director, EPA Region II Emergency and Remedial Response Division (ERRD), verbally approved a Total Project Ceiling of \$50,000 for the installation of the water treatment systems in the affected residences, and an emergency delivery order was issued to EPA's Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) contractor to begin the installations. An Action Memorandum confirming verbal approval was signed by the ERRD Director on December 17, 1999.

B. Actions Taken:

Between October and December, 1999, treatment systems were installed in six of the affected wells. The owner of the seventh affected well refused installation of a treatment system. Confirmation sampling of the drinking water in the effected residences in February, 2000, determined that the treatment systems are removing the organic compounds in the drinking water to levels below the MCLs for those compounds.

C. Key Issues:

There are no key issues associated with this site.

D. Next Steps:

EPA will continue to sample the drinking water (pre- and post-filter) in the affected residences to confirm treatment system operation and to monitor organic compounds in the wells. EPA also will maintain the systems for one year (until December, 2000). NYSDEC is investigating whether the State can assist the homeowners with system maintenance beyond the one-year period, and is also investigating the source of the contamination.

IV. COST INFORMATION:

| | <u>Ceiling</u> | <u>Cost to Date</u> | <u>Remaining Project Funds</u> |
|--------|----------------|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| ERRS | \$ 30,000 | \$ 23,542 | \$ 6,457 |
| START | \$ 10,000 | \$ 3,725 | \$ 6,275 |
| EPA | \$ 10,000 | \$ 1,862 | \$ 8,138 |
| TOTAL* | \$ 50,000 | \$ 29,129 | \$ 20,871 |

Expenditure to Date: \$ 29,129

* (including contingency %)

The above accounting of expenditures is an estimate based on figures known to the OSC at the time this report was written. The cost accounting provided in this report does not necessarily represent an exact monetary figure, which the EPA may include in any claims for cost recovery.

V. DISPOSITION OF WASTES:

N/A

Further Polreps Forthcoming: X